

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 301494
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY: INR:HSAUNDERS
APPROVED BY: THE SECRETARY
NSC:WQUANDT
S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER

-----094163 190241Z /61

O 182321Z DEC 77 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 301494

NODIS
CHEROKEE TO THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

INFO USDEL CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, IS, EG, XF

SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN VISIT

1. PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN BRIEFING
PRESIDENT ASSAD AND FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM ON BEGIN'S
TALKS HERE:

(A) OUR MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HAVE CON-
CLUDED, AND I WANT YOU TO HAVE A REPORT ON THEM.

SECRET

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(B) THE PRESIDENT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ISRAELI
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ON WITHDRAWAL AND ON THE
PALESTINIAN QUESTION WHICH COULD ADVANCE THE NEGOTIATION
OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. I BELIEVE BEGIN UNDER-
STANDS THAT A DECISION TO MAKE SUCH A DECLARATION WILL
BE IMPORTANT IF PROGRESS IS TO BE MADE.

(C) AS THE SYRIANS WILL HAVE READ IN THE PRESS, CON-
SIDERABLE TIME WAS SPENT IN DISCUSSION BEGIN'S PROPOSALS
FOR SELF RULE FOR THE PALESTINIAN ARABS IN THE WEST BANK

AND GAZA. ALTHOUGH HE HAS PUT FORWARD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS,

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT HIS THINKING IS VERY MUCH IN FLUX AND HE IS READY TO CONSIDER OTHER SUGGESTIONS. HE IS TALKING ABOUT THE END OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA AND GOVERNMENT BY A LOCALLY ELECTED COUNCIL WHICH WOULD HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NORMAL RANGE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES EXCEPT FOR EXTERNAL SECURITY. OUR APPROACH WAS TO TRY TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE ASPECTS WHICH ARE USEFUL AND TO IDENTIFY THOSE AREAS WHERE THE PROPOSALS DO NOT YET MEET ARAB NEEDS.

(D) OUR APPROACH HAS BEEN TO HEAR BEGIN OUT AND TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER FLEXIBILITY WHERE IT IS NEEDED. OUR VIEW IS THAT, WHILE BEGIN'S PROPOSALS DO NOT YET MEET ARAB HOPES, HIS THINKING HAS COME A LONG WAY IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS AND IS STILL EVOLVING SO THERE IS

SOMETHING TO WORK WITH. DESPITE WHAT MAY APPEAR IN THE PRESS, PRESIDENT CARTER CAREFULLY AVOIDED ENDORSING THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSALS. OUR PUBLIC AS WELL AS OUR PRIVATE STANCE HAS BEEN THAT THE ULTIMATE TEST OF THE SECRET

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ACCEPTABILITY OF ANY PROPOSALS MUST LIE WITH THE PARTIES WHO WILL SIGN THE PEACE TREATIES.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL ASSAD AND KHADDAM THAT WE APPRECIATED VERY MUCH THEIR WARM RECEPTION. WE RECIPROCATATE THEIR DESIRE FOR A STRONG, CONTINUING BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND CLOSE COMMUNICATION. WE WANT TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH AS THE PEACE PROCESS CONTINUES AND HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT EVENTUALLY INVOLVE THEMSELVES AGAIN IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. FOR BEIRUT: AMBASSADOR MAY DRAW ON ABOVE TO BRIEF SARKIS AND BOUTROS.
VANCE

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 301494
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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

-----094383 190514Z /23

O 190450Z DEC 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 301494

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED DECEMBER 18,
1977 SENT DAMASCUS INFO BEIRUT, CAIRO IS REPEATED TO YOU:
QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 301494

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VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: BRIEFING ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN VISIT
TAGS: OTRA, PGOV, PDIP, US, IS, EG, XF, PLO, (ASAD, HAFIZ), (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
To: DAMASCUS INFO BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3f55dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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22 May 2009
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